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Honorable Mike Thompson
Chair, Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Kansas Capitol, Room 144 South
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Re: Proponent Testimony SB50

Dear Chairman Thompson and Committee:

My name is William Mize. I reside in Louisburg and operate a law practice in Overland Park.

I am providing this testimony in support of SB50. This bill addresses the internet censorship experienced by many Kansans from groups who do not want opposing views to be shared with the public. Specifically, this censoring of ideas is directed primarily at various conservative groups, including health freedom groups to which I belong. We are all aware of the narratives that were perpetrated by these sites that censored challenges to the false scientific facts such as that those who were vaccinated were less likely to contract the virus, that the vaccinated were less likely to spread the virus and that natural immunity was not as effective an immunity from the vaccine, to name a few. By censoring conflicting views, the media sites stifled the truth and caused untold injury and death.

SB50 also provides an effective means to enforce compliance. Besides private means for a claimant to enforce acts of censorship, the bill also allows for enforcement through the Kansas Consumer Protection Act. Under the KCPA, the aggrieved party may seek private enforcement and will be allowed to recover penalties and attorney fees if they prevail in litigation. Alternatively, the claimant may defer enforcement through the Kansas Attorney General who is empowered to seek penalties and other relief including, injunctions.

I ask that you support SB50 and recommend its approval by this committee.

Respectfully,
William D. Mize
Louisburg, Kansas
Proponent